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For Immediate Release

Civil Air Patrol Members donate time and services to Music and Balloon Festival

BROOKHAVEN CALABRO AIRPORT, Shirley, NY — Over 80 Cadet and Senior members of the Long Island Group of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) diligently provided security services at the Metro NY Balloon and Music Festival held at Brookhaven's Calabro Airport.

As thousands of people attended the festival to see hot air balloons and hear the myriad of bands and performers, Cadet and Senior members manned posts around the perimeter of the airport insuring that traffic flowed properly to and from the event and keeping peaceful side streets calm. Long Island Group Commander Lt. Col. Jack Ozer explained that "we're helping our community by providing more than 80 cadet and senior members from all over Long Island who are providing security and services as a community service during balloonfest."

Commanding the event on behalf of CAP was Suffolk County Cadet Squadron 7 commander Capt. Darren Cioffi. "It's nice to be able to go out and work in the community as a unified group presenting ourselves as the professionals we strive to be" Cioffi said, "This is the event I look forward to working at every year because of the wonderful people in Civil Air Patrol I have the pleasure of working with."

Squadron 7's Cadet Commander c/2d Lt. Brianna Doherty, who is heading to the University of Scranton on a pre-med track in two weeks, was selected to head the cadet staff over the three day event. "[Things were] a little hectic in the beginning but all the cadets are cooperating and everyone is having a fun time. I'm happy because everyone else is happy," Doherty stated. Balloon festival was a huge success, and many potential problems were alleviated by the work of the Civil Air Patrol.

Civil Air Patrol, the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 56,000 members nationwide. CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 103 lives in fiscal year 2007. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief, and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the nearly 22,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 65 years.

On The Web: www.cap.gov.

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